



Academy of the Sacred Heart *Grade 5/6 Music*

Dear Parents,

Congratulations! You are the parent of a new middle school student at the Academy of the Sacred Heart! This is an exciting time – filled with many new and wonderful opportunities in your child's life. At this point in your child's music development, she has learned to read music, sing in tune, play Orff instruments and the recorder. That is to say the children have had singing experiences in general music as well as on barred, percussion and wind instruments.

Fifth grade marks the year when musical instruction becomes more specialized; the skills the students have learned through the fourth grade are reinforced and expanded upon in a more sophisticated way. To that end, all fifth graders in the Middle School for Girls will be in Beginning Band.

In the meantime, you and your child do have an important issue to begin considering – the instrument she will play in the Beginning Band. This is a very important decision because it is one that will not only impact your child throughout the entire fifth grade year, but is also, hopefully, the beginning of a lifetime of musical involvement.

To help with this process, there are some things that will occur at the beginning of the school year that will educate the students about their choices:

- Students will be introduced to the instruments offered: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion on Wednesday, September 8.
- All fifth graders will participate in an “instrument fitting.” They will have the opportunity to try two or three of their favorite instruments. I will individually evaluate each student to determine which instrument she is **best suited to play**, based on size, physical characteristics that will help/hinder student success and overall interest. A letter will then be sent home the week of September 13 to notify you about the instrument your child was selected to play in the band. (Further details about instrument rental on-line and other necessary equipment for the class will also be sent home at that time.)

If you have questions concerning these classes, please feel free to contact me.

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